This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 003123

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR WHA/CAN AND AF/SPG

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CA PREL SU PARM MOPS
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM MP DAVID KILGOUR TO SECSTATE URGING GREATER NATO INVOLVEMENT IN SUDAN

¶1. Embassy has received a letter from MP David Kilgour addressed to the Secretary regarding NATO involvement in Darfur. Mr. Kilgour is an independent MP who has been a champion of human rights and humanitarian issues going back to international efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry in the 1970,s. Kilgour is a good friend of the United States and is one of Embassy,s better contacts on a range of domestic political and international issues. He has been helpful in bringing attention to the issue of Darfur in Canada, most recently hosting the Ride for Sudan which linked U.S. and Canadian NGOs in helping to raise the profile of the plight of the Sudanese. A reply to Mr. Kilgour from the Secretary or Deputy Secretary would help advance our efforts to engage Canada on Darfur and would be a way to get a message on Sudan to the Canadian public.

¶2. Begin Text

Ottawa, September 28, 2005
Ms. Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State

SIPDIS

Madame Secretary,

As you will be aware, the public concern across Canada about the ongoing catastrophe in Sudan, and from all indications in many other parts of the world as well, appears to continue unabated.

Attached is an analysis (Note: original faxed to WHA/CAN. End Note) of September 7th by the American academic Eric Reeves, who has probably followed developments in Sudan as closely as anyone outside the continent for the past six years. In his concluding paragraphs, he notes that there are presently "over 3.2 million conflict-affected persons, current excess mortality in Darfur exceeds 6,000 human beings per month," and "without vastly increased international resources, including NATO military personnel, genocide by attrition will continue indefinitely in Darfur. Nothing could burden future operations by the AU Peace and Security Commission more onerously than such a legacy."

The second attachment is an overview of the International Crisis Group's report this summer, "The AU's Mission in Darfur: Bridging the Gaps." I hope you are aware that in early July the ICG stated that it wants NATO and others to offer additional help to the AU in "force preparation, deployment, sustainment, intelligence, command and control, communications and tactical (day and night) mobility, including the deployment of their own assets and personnel to meet capability gaps as needed."

Whatever the international and regional political nuances, or organizational mechanics, or any other number of unpersuasive excuses, no one can deny that we all have a responsibility to protect civilians in Darfur. As Susan Rice wrote in a Washington Post article this past August, genocide is not simply a regional or domestic issue. "A government that commits or condones genocide is not on par with one that, say, jails dissidents, squanders economic resources or suppresses free speech, as dreadful as such policies may be. Genocide makes a claim on the entire world and it should be a call to action."

Although many are pleased to hear NATO has promised to extend the airlift of AU troops to Darfur until the end of October, many others have called for the alliance to become involved in a more integrated and result-oriented way. Insisting that such an initiative would need the approval of both the AU and the Sudanese government misses the point.

To believe that the Sudanese government would ever condone NATO involvement in a capacity more than transporting AU troops is folly. The people of Sudan cannot wait for this. Acknowledging that something exists but refusing to take action is just as bad as denying something exists at all and claiming that no action is necessary. Claims that the situation has stabilized and requires only humanitarian aid must end, for the crisis in Sudan is far from stable. Neither can we remain idle because of fears that strong action will

lead to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) falling apart. The case is precisely the opposite: without a solution to the current crisis, the CPA will never work.

Two Canadian observers returned from Sudan several days ago. Consider several of their observations while on the trip:

-- Several armed men opened fire on a bus near El Fasher, Darfur this past Friday, September 23rd, killing one and wounding seven. They spoke to several witnesses.
-- None of the Rwandan, Senegalese, South African and Malawi AU troops were present during the attack. Even if they had been, they are under mandate not to carry weapons so all they could have done was report the incident.
-- An Egyptian policeman in Sudan told one of the Canadians that it is ridiculous that the AU troops are unarmed - it allows the janjaweed to act with absolute impunity.
-- While at the Zam Zam military base controlled by Rwandan AU troops, they saw twelve armoured AU vehicles which had never been used because they were waiting for a new coat of paint.
-- In the Abu-Shouko camp, the temporary home of 270,000 women and children, the observers failed to see even one AU soldier in two hours.
-- The nutrition and living conditions of the AU troops is very poor, and has a negative impact on their ability to perform their duties effectively.

We must all do our part to bring an end to the catastrophe in Sudan; we as ministers, diplomats and parliamentarians all have the capacity to make a difference. Abhorrent violations of human rights cannot continue because we chose indifference. If everything we do accomplishes nothing, we are simply silent partners in genocide. Are we really willing to allow another Rwanda or Bosnia to take place while we stand and watch? We must let "Never Again" mean something.

I'd greatly appreciate your comments on this issue in a form that might be shared. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Kilgour

End Text

Visit Canada's Classified Web Site at http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/wha/ottawa

WILKINS